

ABSTRACT

A method of binding a plurality of sheets into a bound sheet stack. The method includes providing a first sheet and a second sheet. At least one of the sheets has a protective coating applied to at least a portion of the sheet. The first and second sheets are overlaid so that at least a portion of the protective coating on one of the sheets contacts the other sheet. A binding energy is then applied to a binding region on the first and second sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack. The binding region includes at least a portion of the protective coating on at least one of the sheets, and which is in contact with the other sheet.